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Students show off their UT spirit throughout the semester with rallies, cheers and events.

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About this edition

The Orientation Edition is an advertising supplement of *The Daily Texan*. It is intended as a dual introduction to *The Daily Texan*, UT's student newspaper, and the University itself.

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Above, the University Tower, part of the Main Building, sits as a beacon as you arrive on campus. Below left, Students celebrate the Hindu festival Holi on campus by covering each other in colored powder.

A photographic look at the campus, the students and life as a Longhorn



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff



Tamir Kalifa | Daily Texan Staff



Shiyam Gaylon | Daily Texan Staff

Left, Business freshman Tiffany Mathews sketches beside the Turtle Pod, located behind the Main Building. Above, UT President William Powers Jr. speaks to Longhorns at his annual State of the University Address.



Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

Student Government Liberal Arts representative John Lawler stands with a poster to help newcomers navigate their way around campus during the first week of class last fall semester.

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COLUMN

A freshman's guide to UT

By Jonathan Rienstra
Daily Texan Guest Columnist
Originally published Aug. 27, 2010

Dear freshmen,
I hope this column finds you in good health since over the course of this next year, you will never feel as good as you do now. That's okay, though; in fact, it is actually a good thing. The goal of freshman year is to feel significantly worse in May than you can talk to all your friends from high school? Has Starcraft II taken up the last two weeks of your life? Great, now turn it off — all of it. This is the most important rule, the one on which all others is founded upon: Spend as little time in your dorm room as possible. UT is a huge campus, and the only way to avoid being a number is to go out and explore. Meet new people, join a club or hang out at Gregory Gym. It doesn't really matter if you actually do anything in the club or at the gym, just go. Dorm rooms suck, and if you are really that concerned with the sweet set-up in your room, you would be better off saving your tuition money, living at home and going to community college.

Secondly, and this is also in the spectrum of meeting new people, do not get a girlfriend or boyfriend two weeks into the first semester. It is tempting, I know. You're away from mom and dad now and the allure of getting a significant other



Photo illustration by Jeff Heimsath
Daily Texan Staff

and playing grown up is strong, but do not do it. For starters, you are living free now — embrace it. The first semester is all about exploration and meeting new people, two things that happen less frequently when you're planning movie night with your boyfriend. The odds are that you will have rushed into that relationship to begin with and it probably won't last the semester, let alone the year. When that's over, you'll be single and ready to mingle, only nobody will know you because all you've done for the last three months is hang out with your now-ex.

Have fun with being independent for the first time in your life by not settling down too quickly. Find a guy or gal you like? Sweet, good for you, but don't rush it. See how things go and, if in January things are still working out, then think about the next step. Or not. You're in college after all, where education is as much about what takes place outside the classroom as it does inside one.

Which brings me to my next rule: For the love of God, do not spend all your time in the library. I get it, grades are important. That goes without saying. That starts with going to class and then studying. But if you spend all your time in studying, you're missing the point of col-

lege. It is about the education of a person and that includes all the stuff that comes with being independent for the first time. If grades are all you're concerned about, stay home and take online courses. You are in Austin, the greatest city in America. Embrace it. Go out and explore. Hit up Sixth Street. Go walk around Mount Bonnell. Make friends with somebody who has a boat and go out on Lake Austin. Just don't become a drone, wasting the best four years of your prime in the PCL.

My friend has this saying he picked up from teammates at Notre Dame: Whenever someone is dragging or being a real party pooper, he will hit them in the arm and ask, "Are you f*cking sleeping?!" It usually works to wake up anyone who was f*cking sleeping, and that's a good thing. Do not f*cking sleep, ever. There is plenty of time to sleep when you're old, but now is not that time. You are young — your immune system is strong — so stay up until the sun rises because there will soon be a day, four years from now, when you will be waking up before the sun rises and going to work. So don't sleep, not now, when you have so much to learn and so many new people to meet. Oh, but naps are OK. In fact, take frequent catnaps because they're the only thing that will keep you alive.

I hope these words find you in good health and may your health deteriorate during the next nine months. Because if you are as healthy in May as you are now, you've wasted a year of your youth and that would be a shame.

Rienstra is a journalism junior.

Flawn still under construction with 4th floor upgrades

By Ahsika Sanders
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Dec. 1, 2010

Construction has left campus walkways and entire floors of the Flawn Academic Center blocked off since summer 2009, and officials say the disruptions will not end until next July.

A construction crew is in the process of upgrading fire alarm and communication systems, as well as renovating the third and fourth floors to make room for new office space.

Between 25 and 40 construction workers are on site five days a week and at night to minimize noise and disruptions, said Bob Rawski, regional program manager for the UT System. He said there were some fire and safety improvements that they needed to make to bring the building up to code.

"The fire sprinklers, for instance, really dramatically improve the building for the occupants," he said. "That was one of the drivers of the project and the other was to renovate those floors to make them more efficient for use."

According to the University's construction advisory website, the project was initially slotted for completion in winter 2011.

The FAC is one of several buildings undergoing construction as part of an overall plan to update and improve the UT campus.

Rawski said much of the renovated space will be used to house several new vice presidents' offices.

Patricia Clubb, vice president for University Operations, said factors such as school needs, faculty recruitment and student population are all taken into account to determine the timing of construction.

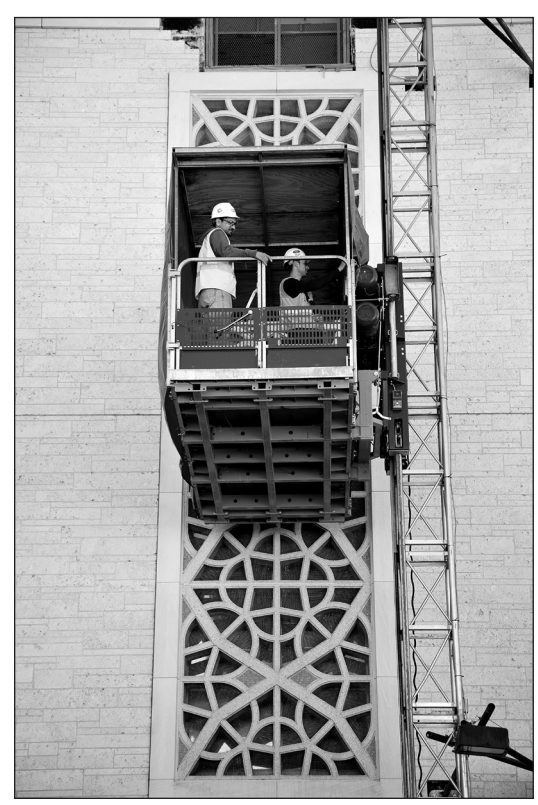
"Big capital projects take years to materialize," she said. "Everything gets factored in so there's no one thing that will put one project in front of another one."

Clubb said small projects all over campus, such as the Tower, the communication, liberal arts and Hackerman buildings and the stadium are all individually funded.

"Every project has a funding profile, and there can be many different sources of funding that go into one project and each of them is built," Clubb said.

The \$22 million total cost for the FAC renovations came from three different sources, said Daniel Tovar, project manager for the FAC construction site. He said \$20 million of the project's funding came from interest on local funds and money distributed to the University but not designated for educational use.

The third floor of the FAC recently reopened to the public, but construction continues with renovation on the fourth floor.



Campus renovations, such as the one at the Flawn Academic Center, have restricted walkways students frequently use.

Jeff Heimsath
Daily Texan Staff

THE DAILY TEXAN

This newspaper was printed with pride by The Daily Texan and Texas Student Media.

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UT loses ranking as No. 1 party school

By William James
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 15

UT has a “work hard, party hard” ethos, but the University no longer holds the Playboy Magazine No. 1 party school title. Playboy’s editors, who considered feedback from readers, students, alumni and campus representatives, ranked UT fifth. They also looked at factors such as male-female ratios on campus, academics, proximity to recreational hot spots and athletic records, according to a statement from the magazine.

Meagan Heeren, a senior engineering major and Alpha Delta Pi sorority member, said she thinks UT’s rank dropped mainly because of UT’s rough football season this past fall. Heeren said her sorority maintained frequent social events this year, and she went to more parties this year than she did before. “We party hard, but I guess we didn’t party hard enough this year for Playboy,” Heeren said. April Tieu, a student associate in Student Activities and Leadership Development, said she did not see a significant drop in activities or social events registered on campus, and she blamed the lower ranking on difficult economic times. “It’s possible we are not ranked first anymore because of the heavy workload students receive at UT or because of financial problems our economy is facing,” Tieu said. Absolute Texas’s vice president, Amanda Jarman, also said that the social organization held the same events it did last year, and she is not sure what made UT’s ranking drop. Playboy’s 2011 top party school went to the University of Colorado at Boulder. Editors noted the school is the “home to reefer madness,” housing more

than 50 medical marijuana dispensaries. Every April, more than half of CU’s 24,000 undergraduates participate in the “4/20 smoke-out on school grounds,” according to the magazine. Boulder is also a top beer drinking school, possessing four breweries within its city limits. Second place went to Pennsylvania State University, followed by Arizona State University and University of Western Ontario, the first Canadian university to make Playboy’s list. The rankings will be published

“We party hard, but I guess we didn’t party hard enough this year for Playboy.”
— Meagan Heeren, Alpha Delta Pi sorority member

in Playboy’s May edition, which will also include “the best (and worst) of everything on campus this spring” with categories such as “Best Naked Parties” — Yale Uni-

versity — “Coolest Course” — University of California, Berkeley’s “The Sociology of Seinfeld” — and “Hottest Sorority” — San Diego State’s Alpha Phi.



Allen Otto | Daily Texan Staff
UT has lost its place as Playboy’s No. 1 party school to the University of Colorado at Boulder and now ranks 5th. The decision is based off factors such as male-female ratio and proximity to recreational hot spots.

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University gaining widespread social media presence

By Allie Kolečta
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Jan. 21

Although only about 6,000 people follow UT on Twitter, a website recently ranked UT one of the top-10 most influential college Twitter accounts in the U.S. along with universities like Stanford, Syracuse and Harvard.

Klout.com rated UT 10th out of the top 10 most influential university Twitter feeds earlier this week. The website rates the influence of Twitter feeds on a scale of one to 100 based on 35 factors including number of tweets, retweets and how often tweets are used in Twitter conversations.

UT's Twitter account opened about two

and a half years ago, and website administrators have posted about 600 tweets to date, said Nyleva Corley, manager of web and new media in the Office of Public Affairs.

"We were interested in taking advantage of what was a new channel at the time to reach out to students," she said. "We thought they would gravitate to a social media platform like Twitter, and we were interested in experimenting with it."

The account currently has 6,627 followers, and that number is steadily growing, Corley said. The account posts at least one and no more than seven tweets a day.

"It really captures the pulse of what's happening on campus," she said.

The Stanford Twitter page, which topped the Klout.com list, has more than 23,000

followers.

Major news days on campus are the busiest days for UT's Twitter feed, said Samantha Stiles, public affairs specialist and a primary author on UT's account. On Jan. 19, the Twitter account was bustling with activity because UT announced a \$300-million contract with ESPN to create a Longhorn TV network, Stiles said.

Twitter administrators posted three tweets with details about the new network between noon and 1:30 p.m.

"We're able to align traditional outlets with social media outlets," she said. "The Twitter account is a great outlet for patting ourselves on the back."

The Twitter account is not linked to UT's Facebook account, but the two work

together to keep UT students informed through their social media outlets, she said. Tweets are released at intervals throughout the day to inform followers without spamming them, she said.

"A lot of our tweets are from prospective students that are excited about coming to UT," she said. "I like to tweet a message back to them and say 'Congrats, welcome to the Longhorn family.' A pretty popular hash tag is 'hookem.'"

The Student Government Twitter account and the UT account are not officially affiliated, but the SG account makes an effort to channel the UT account through its Twitter, said SG administrative director Nathan Bunch.

UT's account and student accounts

can become primary sources of information in times of crisis, like the Sept. 28 incident when Colton Tooley shot off several rounds with his AK-47 in the Perry-Castaneda Library before taking his own life. Campus and student Twitter accounts helped students inform each other of the situation's status and where to take shelter, said Bunch, who runs SG's Twitter account.

"We're a generation that is often criticized for our use of social media, but that's what helped us keep each other safe," he said. "We're not used to getting information in traditional ways, and social media is a method that the University can take advantage of to get information out there faster."

115 students volunteer at biannual Waller Creek Cleanup



Stephanie Meza | Daily Texan Staff

Emily and Ethan Doucette play along Waller Creek after a group of volunteers with the Environmental Health Center cleaned up trash on a Saturday last fall.

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Nov. 8, 2010

More than 100 students gave up sleeping in late on Saturday morning to pull aluminum cans, plastic bags and discarded clothes out of Waller Creek.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office and the Texas Natural Science Center came together for the biannual Waller Creek Cleanup.

Waller Creek runs from North Austin, through the city and campus, into Lady Bird Lake downtown. Trash from the streets washes down storm drains and into the creek.

Carin Peterson, the event's coordinator and training and outreach coordinator for the Environmental Health and Safety Office, said the 115 volunteers was an average turnout for the popular event.

"Littering is a big problem in Waller Creek," Peterson said. "What happens is, it's not just campus litter that ends up in the creek. Because the creek flows down to Town Lake, we get a lot of trash from beyond campus that comes down."

The groups of volunteers focused on the portion of the creek that starts at Dean Keeton Street and flows down to MLK Boulevard.

"Littering is a huge problem on campus and our department is [a steward] of the creek and it's important to keep the creek clean," Peterson said. "The creek is a place where students, faculty and staff can enjoy themselves and relax. Because it's part of the larger water system in Austin, we want to help keep it clean."

Psychology senior Jose Porras has attended the event twice.

"I feel that in my encounters with volunteer activities around the campus, this has been one of the most rewarding and one of the ones where I feel I make the most direct impact on my campus," Porras said.

He said UT students are not aware about what type of impact littering can have on the environment.

"I feel that you can never have enough awareness or help around the campus — especially one of this size and one with so many students," Porras said.

According to wallercreek.org, animals like the Great Blue Heron and the Roseate Skimmer dragonfly rely on the creek to survive.

"I care about how UT looks and the environment," said accounting senior Sara Shih, who attended Saturday's event. "You always see trash in Waller Creek. It could be so beautiful if we took care of it."

UT improves sustainability grade

By Destinee Hodge
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Oct. 28, 2010

A nonprofit organization that evaluates sustainability on college campuses gave UT a B+ for the 2011 school year.

The Sustainable Endowments Institute provides a "Sustainability Report Card" for the 300 U.S. and Canadian universities with the largest endowments. The report card has nine sections, including green building efforts and recycling, that evaluate different aspects of sustainability on college campuses.

"Doing well in these kind of surveys is a nice measure of the kind of sustainability work going on on campus," said Jim Walker, director of sustainability at UT. "I think it's probably too soon to tell if it's a result of the Office of Sustainability's work."

The organization issued UT a B- last year. Walker said the improvement was a result of better reporting on the campus initiatives already in place.

The University provided the Institute with more complete information

about strategies implemented to improve sustainability, and distribution of endowment funds, which could have increased their score, he said.

The Campus Environmental Center, a UT student-run environmental preservation group, has led initiatives that may have factored into the new grade the University received. The CEC used to control some recycling on campus and hosted the annual Trash to Treasure garage sale. They are also in the early stages of developing a program to reduce carbon emissions.

Since the University took charge of on-campus recycling this summer, the center has focused on creating programs that allow more opportunities for environmental awareness, including providing information about campus sustainability issues at new student orientations.

"Last year, they did take some steps to get more sustainability into new student orientation because ... the ratings system that's sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in higher education specifically mentions that

in their grading system," said Karen Blaney, adviser for the CEC. "And you can get points for having sustainability integrated in the new student orientation."

Although the program was not implemented, the center began discussing possible strategies with the coordinators of new student orientation.

"A lot of things have been going on [on campus] for a long time, it's just that we're now getting recognition for that," she said.

The center will begin other programs this semester that may improve the University's overall sustainability rating. Rachel Aitkens, co-director of the center, said UT is looking at how to make water fountains easier to use to refill water bottles and other measures to reduce plastic waste.

Walker said involving everyone on campus is another way the sustainability office hopes to improve ratings.

"We'd like to have more interest from the faculty and students on different aspects of the report card. We welcome a broader conversation on different aspects of the card where the University can do better," he said.

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First-year students, transfers may get more time to Q-drop

By Ahsika Sanders
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 6

First-year students may gain peace of mind with the option to drop a course after the last class day if the administration accepts a Senate of College Councils resolution.

The University Academic Policies and Procedures' current policy only allows a student to drop courses after the mid-semester mark for non-academic circumstances, such as severe illness or mental stress following a family member's death.

The new resolution will permit first-year students, including transfer students, to drop a course up until the final exam.

Senate of College Councils president-elect Carisa Nietsche said Faculty Council is currently discussing the resolution and will have to approve it before it is implemented.

"It could potentially mean that a student could drop a course after a class has already ended, as long as they haven't completed the coursework," Nietsche said.

She said although the administration has already begun discussing the resolution, implementation will depend on how they prioritize it. The policy may go into effect as soon as the fall semester, she said.

The policy prohibits students from using the exemption after they have completed all of the coursework because it is not meant for students whose final exams will determine whether they will fail the class, said resolution co-author Ashley Adamo.

Radio-television-film junior Rhea Fluker said she could have

benefited from the policy as a second-semester transfer student. She said she realized too late that she needed to drop one of her courses or she would fail it.

"At this point, I couldn't handle the course load anymore, but by the time I realized that, there was little I could do to not fail the class. It was the Friday after the Q-drop date," she said.

Fluker said she checked with her advisers and met with her professor multiple times to see if there was any way she could have dropped the class to "salvage" her grade point average, but there were no options.

"If I could have dropped it last minute, I definitely would have benefited because it would have eased the blow to my GPA and stress levels," she said.

The College of Natural Sciences, the School of Architecture and the School of Nursing are currently the only schools with the one-time exemption policy in place, and each has their own implementation guidelines.

The one-time exemption policy could be especially beneficial for first- or second-year students in a five-year program such as the one at the School of Architecture, said Jeanne Crawford, assistant dean for the school's undergraduate programs.

"There are those times when something is going on in the student's life, and they might not be aware of drop policies or they forget them, so we always allow them that one exemption during their time at UT," Crawford said. "I would say for those students, it certainly helps when it comes down to dropping or receiving an 'F.'"

“It could potentially mean that a student could drop a course after a class has already ended...”

—Carisa Nietsche, Senate of College Councils president-elect

Longhorns spring into service



Sophomore Stephen Bourne hands out stickers during April's Spring Into Giving event on campus.

By Molly Moore
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 14

Students dug in their pockets to help support the Student Emergency Fund at the first-ever Spring into Giving campaign.

Students Hooked on Texas, a group devoted to community service and fundraising for UT, sponsored the full-day event on Gregory Plaza on Wednesday to raise money for the Student Emergency Fund. The cause brought together student volunteers from several University colleges and philanthropic societies.

The fund helps students stay on track academically in times of crisis, said Christa Lopez, the coordinator of Student Emergency Services in the Office of the Dean of Students, which sponsors the fund. "We help students sustain

their progress at UT," Lopez said. "Sometimes, without these funds, the students would have to leave the University, delaying their education a semester or a year. We help them make it to their graduation on time."

The Student Emergency Fund, which started 10 years ago, is available to any UT student facing a "temporary financial hardship resulting from an emergency situation," according to the Dean of Students website, which is also where students apply for aid. On average, amounts given range from \$25-\$150 and have previously helped students pay for hardships, including medical tests and treatments and plane tickets to attend an immediate family member's funeral.

Party on the Plaza, the Hearts of Texas, Texas Parents, in addition to yesterday's event, provide

most of the donations to the fund, but anyone can contribute by going to the Dean of Students website. All of the money raised goes toward students who apply for financial help.

"There's such a direct, immediate benefit with the Emergency Fund, as every dollar raised goes to help someone experiencing a personal crisis," said Julie Lucas, the assistant director of Students Hooked on Texas.

For this year's Spring into Giving campaign, a group of five alumni have pledged to match student donations dollar-for-dollar by each donating up to \$5,000, Lucas said. They will renew this pledge annually for the next four years. Lucas said they won't know the total amount raised this year until Friday.

"[With \$3,000-\$4,000 currently in the fund] and the 50,000 stu-

dents at UT, we obviously can't help everyone," Lopez said. "So for students that may be OK financially, we encourage them to give back to their friend who needs a little help or their classmate who is homeless and living on the street. Even if someone doesn't think that giving a dollar will help, that dollar becomes two. And you never know who or how you are helping."

Students interested in applying for a grant from the Emergency Fund can find the application on the Office of the Dean of Students website. The application must be accompanied by sufficient documentation of financial hardship.

"In times of crisis, it's already so stressful, and to know that there is some backup from the University takes some of that pressure off," said applied learning and development freshman Sumayya Pirbhai, who volunteered at the event.

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'Horns burn red to defeat maroon



Above, English freshman Nicole San Martin lights a candle as part of the Hex Rally on the Main Mall in the fall. 2010 marked the 25th anniversary of the rally since it was revived in 1986. Below, Finance senior Alexa Bourdage twirls flaming batons as part of the rally.

Discouraged fans put hope in the hex

By Allie Kolečta
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Nov. 23, 2010

The same red candle that has illuminated the Main Mall during hex rallies for more than 20 years lit the night for about 2,000 students at this year's event on Monday.

The Texas Exes student chapter hosted the annual Hex Rally preceding the Texas A&M game. This is the 25th anniversary of the rally, and students gathered to light red candles to hex the Aggies, said finance and advertising senior Valerie Nguyen, president of the Texas Exes student chapter.

"Seeing 2,000 people with red candles is a really powerful image," she said. "Everyone is really crazy about

Texas football, and it's really cool to see that manifest itself."

The rally started when UT students, frustrated by an 18-year losing streak against A&M, approached a local fortune teller in 1941 and asked her what the outcome of their game against the Aggies would be, Nguyen said. The fortune teller told them lighting red candles and singing the Eyes of Texas three times would ensure a Longhorn victory — and UT won that game, she said.

After the '60s, students discontin-



ued the rallies as a form of rebellion against school tradition. The then-Spirit and Traditions Board established an official UT Hex Rally, which has been held on the Main Mall ever since, said Jim Nicar, director of cam-

pus relations for the Texas Exes.

"The Hex Rally has created a sense of community," said Nicar, who has been to all 25 rallies. "Not only do you get to show your Longhorn spirit, you get to be a part of something on this campus."

This season, the Longhorns have won five out of 11 games. This discouraging season should only spur Longhorn fans to get more excited for the Hex Rally, said Taylor Nyberg, student relations coordinator for the Texas Exes student chapter.

"If anything, it should just bolster the spirit," she said. "This is to put a

hex on the Aggies and support our Longhorn football team."

The event is open to the community as well as students, she said, and they often see high school students, alumni and residents of the Austin area who come out to support the Longhorn football team.

"It's put on by students, but it's for the whole community," Nyberg said. "It's a really cool event, because no matter who you are, you can come and show your Longhorn spirit."

Alpha Phi Alpha, the Longhorn Band, Redefined Dance Company and others performed Monday night.

After watching the UT-A&M football game every year, becoming a part of the tradition is another reason to be excited to be a Longhorn, said journalism freshman Carly Ortel.

"I've been watching this game for years," she said. "To finally be a part of everything is really exciting."

School spirit abounds all year long



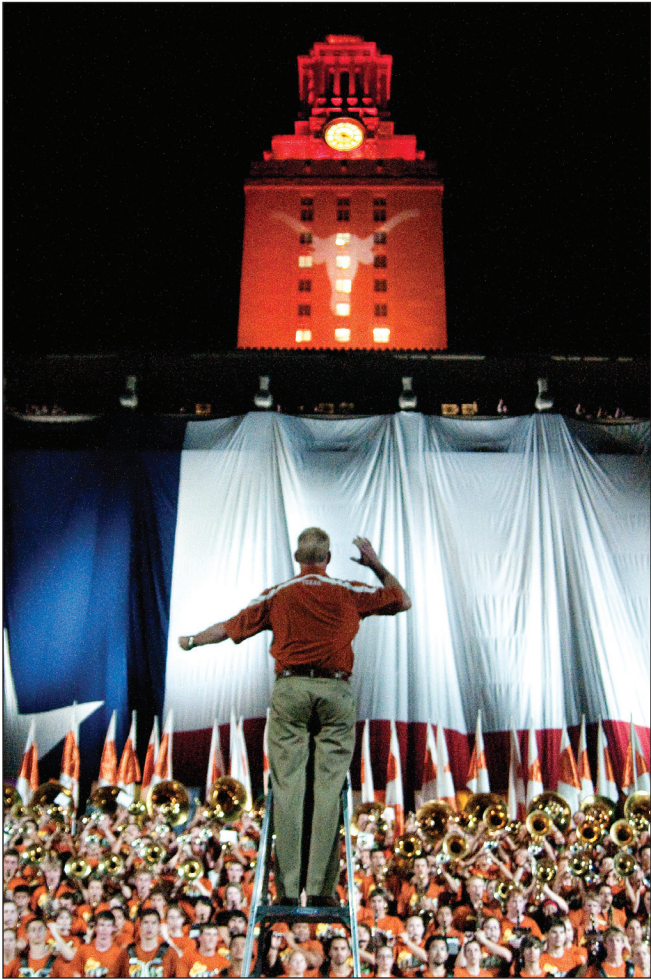
Longhorn fans celebrate at a tailgate before UT's game against Wyoming last September.



Lawrence Peart | Daily Texan Staff



Derek Stout | Daily Texan Staff



Lauren Gerson | Daily Texan Staff

Left, A student plays one of the games set up at the annual Forty Acres Fest this year. Above, Texas softball players cheer during the team's 5-1 win over Wisconsin in February. The Longhorns had scored 43 runs in three games at that point in the season. Top right, UT basketball players Jai Lucas, left, and Jordan Hamilton get ready for a game against Texas A&M on Jan. 20. Right, Band Director Robert Carnochan the Longhorn Band in front of the Tower at last fall's Gone to Texas event.

Special dietary needs not met on, around campus

By Audrey White
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Oct. 25, 2010

College students love to eat. It's one of those universal truths; like "grass is green" and "OU sucks."

But it can be harder for students with health, lifestyle and religious dietary restrictions to eat at UT. Vegan, gluten-free, kosher and halal diets pose challenges for students trying to eat on and around campus.

Jewish students who keep kosher and Muslim students who observe halal or Zabihah face greater challenges, and for the most part, the Division of Housing and Food Services does not have the ability to meet their needs in dining halls, said Brandy Shih, a dietitian for DHFS.

The two diets require certain types of meat and specific preparations, and DHFS doesn't have the resources to kosher- or halal-certify its kitchens, given the limited demand and high costs.

There are a number of restaurants in Austin that offer Zabihah meat, which requires that the animal was slaughtered by a Muslim in the name of Allah, including Kismet Cafe on 24th Street. Students who keep Zabihah and live in on- and off-campus dorms mostly eat vegetarian, said business graduate student Sabina Mohammed, who only eats Zabiha meat.

There are no kosher restaurants within walking distance of campus and the only grocery store that sells kosher meat in Austin is the HEB in Far West. Texas Hillel offers kosher Shabbat dinners on Fridays, but most kosher-observant Jewish students have to stay vegetarian the rest of the week, especially if they live on campus.

"A lot of people keep kosher but will still eat vegetarian when they go out or eat on campus,"

said Margo Sack, the director of Jewish student life at Texas Hillel. "There are also [a few dozen] students who keep very strict kosher, so they'll only eat things that have rabbinic supervision. We have met with the University to talk about these issues, and it's not an issue of not wanting to be responsive; it's just really hard to meet such specific needs."

Melissa Dunn is a supply chain management and Middle Eastern studies sophomore and business representative in Student Government who keeps kosher.

She said she is meeting with DHFS administrators, students and other officials to discuss how to make UT more accessible to people with specific dietary needs.

"I shouldn't have had to be a vegetarian when I was paying to live on campus," said Dunn, who now lives in an apartment and has had her kitchen kosher-certified by a rabbi. "If you keep kosher, you need pre-packaged food, and it would be great to see DHFS offer that in the markets."

She said she also wants to discuss the possibility of expanded late-night options and better advertising for the programs DHFS does have, specifically related to vegetarian and gluten-free options.

"For a college campus, UT does really well," said accounting and Spanish junior Samantha Darnell, who lives on campus and doesn't eat gluten and eats no meat or dairy except eggs. "My food choices are very repetitive — I'll have beans, vegetables and fruit most days — but since it is a choice for me, I'm fine with eating what a lot of people would consider a bland variation of foods. I'm rather proud of DHFS lately because they keep introducing more and more vegetarian options and really good stuff."

Although Darnell keeps a gluten-free diet by choice, she said that if she actually had celiac disease, the condition that causes gluten intolerance, she would be more wary of eating on campus since it is so easy for food to be contaminated. However, she said options like the gluten-free pizza available by request in Kinsolving Dining Center are a great choice for many students with less severe gluten allergies.

DHFS is working to better advertise its options for students with diverse needs, and Shih is available to meet with any student who needs help determining how to eat nutritiously and safely on campus, she said.

"We try to meet the needs of all of our students as much as we can," Shih said. "All of our managers and chefs put a lot more energy into the fall menus to create more options. We have a lot of options that people may not know about, but we face limitations."

This year, DHFS is giving special attention to expanded vegetarian and gluten-free options, she said. For example, the dining halls switched their brand of soy sauce to one that doesn't contain gluten, and Jester City Limits added a vegetarian- and gluten-free-specific line. DHFS hosts a vegetarian focus group so students can provide feedback on meatless options.

But in the past when DHFS has offered vegan entrees, they tend to just sit on the line, Shih said. Jester Second Floor Dining Room and Kinsolving cafeterias both offer vegan soups as well as fruits and vegetables, and DHFS has not heard much demand for expanded vegan options.

"DHFS does a lot of the stuff that people want, but it's not publicized right," Dunn said. "Once the word gets out about what's there, we can put more attention on vegan food issues and gluten-free and religious diets."

COLUMN

At UT, there's an organization to fit any student's interest

By Destinee Hodge
Longhorn Life Staff
Originally published March 25 in Longhorn Life, an advertising special edition of The Daily Texan

Our University sits on more than 400 acres of land and is home to more than 50,000 students who make up nearly 1,500 active student organizations on campus. Quite understandably, it is very easy to get lost in the crowd.

I came to UT in 2008 as a transfer student from the British Virgin Islands, and I must admit that I was incredibly overwhelmed by the vastness of the campus and the number of people I had to dodge as I navigated my way around. I needed to find a way to connect and somehow feel like part of a community. After three years of making posters, going to meetings and planning events, I've been involved in 12 organizations, all of which have enhanced my overall experience here.

Getting involved on campus is vital to getting to know this University, meeting people and feeling connected. When you attend a college this large, there is really nothing better than finding a group of people with whom you share common interests. An added benefit is that it looks great on your resume to have committed to an organization for significant periods during your college career.

If you are new to the on-campus involvement scene, I suggest two things to consider when deciding what organizations to join. First, think about what you like to do and then see if there's a group that shares your interest. And at UT, chances are you will find one. For example, if you like



Senior Destinee Hodge served as co-chair of the 2011 Forty Acres Fest. She has been involved in 12 organizations as a Longhorn.

community service, you can join the Longhorn Unit of Volunteering, or if you love animals, you can join Students Against Cruelty to Animals. You are certainly more likely to stick with a group that you actually want to be in. As a point of reference, one of the first groups I joined at UT was the Caribbean Students Association. They could obviously provide me with the sense of community that I really needed.

Second, I suggest branching out to an organization that you may not have considered joining. It is really easy to spend your four (or more) years at UT staying in your comfort zone. However, it would completely defeat the purpose of college if you never try anything new. Maybe go to the Malaysian Student Association and learn something about

that culture, or check out some moves at Texas Taekwondo. You'd be surprised what you can learn to love.

If you are still unsure about which organization or group to join, I would also suggest attending the University-wide Forty Acres Fest event for which I am this year's co-chair.

This year's Forty Acres Fest is next week and is one of the largest student-run events on campus. While the event ends with a huge concert featuring Big Boi, one of the main highlights will be the more than 200 student organizations on site to showcase what they're all about. The event also features a ton of free entertainment. I would stop by the Main Mall on April 2 to see which group is waiting to welcome you.

For more information about which student group is best for you, visit the Office of the Dean of Students while you're on campus, at the Student Services Building room 4.104, or online, at deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sald/studentorgs/index.php.



Photo illustration by Andrew Torrey, Michael Baldon and Mary Kang | Daily Texan Staff

Meal choices for students with vegetarian, gluten-free, kosher and other special diets are limited on and around campus.

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University department helps 'Horns stay healthy

University Health Services is one of the most important and useful resources UT offers. From simple check-ups to stress-management workshops, the UHS provides a number of services from which every new student can benefit. A few of them are highlighted below, but we encourage you to visit the UHS website for more information: healthyhorns.utexas.edu.

24/7 Nurse Advice Hotline

Since UHS does not operate 24 hours a day, it does offer a 24/7 hotline for students to call seeking advice on how to treat illnesses at home and whether it's necessary to see a physician.

General Medical Care

Got a cold? Stomach ache? Need to get a shot? For general medical needs and services, UHS offers care and diagnoses of minor injuries, upper respiratory infections, allergies and those everyday illnesses we all face. Additionally, you can schedule general care appointments for physical exams, immunizations and chronic disease management, such as asthma and diabetes.

Urgent Care Clinic

While the Urgent Care Clinic is not a 24-hour, fully equipped emergency room, it does offer care for non-life-threatening conditions that need immediate attention. Conditions treated in urgent care include (but are not limited to) wounds that require stitches, allergic reactions, broken bones and eye injuries.

Counseling and Mental Health Center

Because a student's first year (and entire college career) can be a stressful and challenging time, the Counseling and Mental Health Center is one of the most useful and important resources for students. In addition to individual counseling and psychiatric services, the CMHC offers important assistance with student concerns such as stress, relationships, depression, grief and loss, self-esteem and suicide. The majority of CMHC services are free to students.

Center for Students in Recovery

The CSR is one of the most unique programs in UHS and is designed for students who identify themselves as recovering addicts or as children of addicts. Students must apply to the CSR,



Erika Rich | Daily Texan Staff

Education junior Maren Holyoak gets a smooch from Dirk, a therapy dog from Therapy Pals of Texas, at the Counseling and Mental Health Center's annual StressFest.

which offers guidance, a relationship-building community of other recovering students as well as a solid monitoring and support system.

Health Promotion Research Center (nutrition services)

The stress of a student's freshman year often comes with the need to address healthy eating habits. The nutrition services provided by the HPRC include nutrition classes and consultations with a registered dietician regarding weight management, an eating disorder or a diet-related medical condition. The HPRC also offers peer-to-peer nutrition counseling for basic nutrition questions and advice for students seeking information about vegetarian/vegan eating, high cholesterol and non-diet weight management.

Women's Health Clinic

The Women's Health Clinic provides routine annual exams (by appointment), contraception advice and prescriptions, testing for sexually transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy testing, care for menstrual concerns and other gynecological advice and consultation.

UHS also provides physical therapy, radiology, resources for healthy sexuality, an on-site pharmacy and a library of health-related books. With so many resources, all incoming students should check out UHS, especially during their first year at UT.



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How to get TICKETS



Andrew Torrey | Daily Texan Staff

The Longhorn football team emerges onto the field at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium for the 2010 season’s game against Baylor.

The first step in getting access to those all-important UT games is to purchase a Longhorn All-Sports Package when you first register for classes. If you do not purchase it then, you may buy one at the stadium’s box office. This sports package costs \$80 for the school year and will get you into all games as long as there is still space available (with the exception of football and basketball).

Football

A student-reserved-seat season ticket costs \$60 in addition to the price of the LASP. There are only a limited number of season tickets available to students. Student-reserved-seat season tickets are located in the east side lower deck, east side upper deck and north end zone of the stadium. Ticket orders are filled according to the priority system. One guest season ticket may be purchased at full price adjacent to the student season ticket. Tickets may be purchased at TexasBoxOffice.com.

Students with an LASP who do not have tickets can get into home games via the football ticket draw. The draw is a per-game distribution of tickets at the Athletics Ticket Office for football games. As long as seats are available, each LASP holder may draw a ticket upon presentation of a valid LASP ID. No guest tickets will be available for purchase unless tickets remain after the designated draw period.

Oklahoma and Away Games: Only those students who purchase both the LASP and the student season ticket are eligible to receive tickets for the OU game and other high demand away games, initially. LASP student season ticket holders have the first opportunity to purchase Texas-OU tickets at full price through the student season ticket order process. For other high demand away games LASP holders who do not purchase the student season ticket will only be eligible to purchase tickets to these games if tickets remain after student season ticket holder requests are processed.

Basketball

Students may purchase an O-Zone pass for basketball games that gives them guaranteed seats. This can be purchased on top of an LASP. Students with an LASP can get into the games for free as long as there are spots available. Some big games may have a draw ahead of time.

Baseball • Softball • Volleyball • Soccer • Tennis

As long as seats are available, these sports are free for students who have an LASP and who present a valid UT ID upon admittance.

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Students get back on saddle with Texas' equestrian club

By Alexandra Carreno
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published May 6

For neurobiology junior Ethan Galis, the prospect of giving up his passion for riding horses upon attending college was difficult to imagine.

Instead, Galis found a way to fill that void: the University of Texas polo club.

"I was really missing that horseback riding aspect in my life," said Galis, who is also the club's vice president. "Starting to play polo opened so many opportunities. I wouldn't be here today without polo."

The state of Texas has always had a love affair with American sports. Baseball, basketball and football stars are born and bred every day in the Lone Star State. A game of prestige, Europeans and Latin Americans usually make up the competitive polo circuit. But UT polo team members are out to prove otherwise.

"It's hard to start playing and not get addicted to the sport," Galis said. "After picking up that mallet for the first time and hitting it, the rush I felt ... It was awesome."

The sport of kings, polo is a worldwide phenomenon, commonly associated with exclusivity, extravagance and privilege.

The sport is played outdoors with teams made up of four players. Home to the biggest field in organized sports, a polo field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide. Matches usually last around two and a half hours, divided into six periods known as chukkers.

"The game is extremely popular on the East Coast," Galis said. "A lot of those kids are kind of



being born with a mallet in their hand. They get into the competition and just kill."

Similar to golf, players are required to have a handicap indicating their value to the team. A two-goal handicap or higher usually indicates professional status; a 10 handicap is perfect.

Founded in 1997, what makes the UT polo club unique is that many of its members have never picked up a mallet before entering college. Daunting as it may seem, Galis assured that alternating between keeping balance and swinging a mallet is an experience everyone is bound to get over.

"I'd say 95 percent of the game is balance on a horse," he said. "If you can ride a horse, in majority, you can play polo. The smarts will eventually come."

For American polo players, the collegiate level tends to serve as the stepping stone between amateur and professional play. For junior polo club social chair Morgan Tennant, the team means everything.

"It's been a huge part of my



Top left, Sophomore Morgan Tennant rides Tino in a training run at the polo arena in Kyle, Texas. Preparing to run a horse involves wrapping their shanks to warm the poorly insulated muscles, tendons and ligaments. Above, Tennant ties up the horse team for their feeding. On practice days, horses aren't run on a full stomachs to avoid potentially life threatening colic.

college experience," Tennant said. "These people are like family, and the horses are like our children."

The team features female and male junior varsity and varsity squads that compete against other clubs and collegiate teams. Texas Tech's team won regionals this spring, while Texas A&M's squad won the national title last year.

But because the sport is so

under the radar in the United States, getting the club's name known across a campus of thousands of people has been tough.

"It's just hard because it's so small to get the exposure out there," Tennant said. "We welcome anyone, horse experience or not."

Polo is played year-round with the most competitive season coming in spring. In what will be

the squad's biggest match of the season, the polo club is hosting its spring benefit Saturday to include two matches, the traditional divot stomp during halftime and a floppy hat contest.

In conjunction with the Kentucky Derby, Tennant hopes it will draw anyone who has even a remote interest in equestrianism or the game of polo.

"The match is going to be real-

ly upscale, like most polo matches," Tennant said. "But contrary to thought, it's also laid-back and fun."

The combination of competition and social gatherings leaves Galis and Tennant encouraging anyone to get involved. Galis, who hasn't ruled out a professional career after college, lives and plays by this short phrase:

"A polo handicap is your ticket around the world."

Pre-med senior takes a stab at fencing, becomes club president



Senior Wes Stafford practices with the UT Fencing Club in the spring semester.

By Lauren Giudice
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 28

Wes Stafford spends his free time stabbing people but aspires to heal them one day.

On Tuesday, Stafford was elected president of the UT fencing club for the 2011-12 year. He is also a pre-med student and has hopes of becoming a doctor.

"There are a lot of really personal reasons as to why I want to be a doctor," Stafford said. "Most importantly though, I want to help people. I have the ability to, so I feel like it's something I need to do."

The fencing team participated in a national tournament earlier this month at the University of Chicago. Stafford had an outstanding performance, only losing four out of 30 epee bouts. The men's epee team came in fifth overall.

"We went up five places from last year and finished a lot stronger," Stafford said. "A lot of the weapons did much better than they did last year."

As a pre-med student, academics are important in Wes' life, but fencing is what keeps

him sane through all of the organic chemistry and biology classes.

"This is a strong family," Stafford said. "It's something I can depend on. It's something that a lot of people can depend on. This team has gotten a lot closer since I've been here."

He started fencing when he was 10 and then quit in high school for swim team.

"I came to UT, and a friend said that there was a fencing team here, and I thought, 'I haven't stabbed somebody in awhile,'" Stafford said. "So I came back and started fencing again and got really involved in it, and it's kind of taken off since then."

Fencing appeals to him because of the combination of strategy and athleticism.

"It's a very personal thing," Stafford said. "You're behind a mask, and all your facial expressions and all your emotions are behind a mask. So it's very much a contained, personal thing that you develop."

Although fencing is something Wes loves, being an athlete and a pre-med student can be difficult. Time management is key in balancing the two.

"It's really tough and overwhelming sometimes to keep up with school and fencing," he said. "There are a lot of sleepless nights and praying involved."

But the focus that he has learned to maintain while fencing has helped him in his studies.

"When you get on the strip, there is nothing else except the person in front of you," he said. "It's not really even the person. It's the thing holding a sword that's trying to stab you. That focus allows you to just concentrate on one thing."

Wes uses that same detached focus in his studies and everyday life.

"I would go crazy if I couldn't stab something on a regular basis," Stafford said.

Cole Christensen, a sophomore on the team, is one of the fencers who respects Wes for his achievements in fencing and academics.

"Wes brings a level of expertise that you don't see in a lot of clubs around Texas," Christensen said. "Wes knows what he's doing, and he's actually truly reliable as a fencer and as a person. He is really inspirational, especially to people who have never fenced before."

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Annual fair showcases initiatives for greener campus



Lizzie Chen | Daily Texan Staff
President of Engineers for a Sustainable World Zachary Willhoit discusses the importance of solar power at the 2011 Sustainability Fair.

Student groups join with UT department to promote diversity

By Allison Harris
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published May 5

Two new student groups will help coordinate campuswide responses to diversity issues, a Diversity and Community Engagement official announced at a town hall meeting Wednesday.

The division's vice president, Gregory Vincent, announced that a Diversity Student Advisory Committee, which will give him student input, and a Campus Climate Response Team, which will respond to incidents of bias, will launch next fall. The advisory committee and the Multicultural Engagement Center hosted the meeting, which about 55 people attended.

Vincent also recommended that Student Government and individual academic units create standing diversity committees.

"You have to make sure that things get institutionalized, meaning that they're going to live beyond the time that you're here," he said. "Even though the students might change, the energy and the mission remains the same."

Vincent said the division could try to reach out to the entire student population through campus-wide events.

this year's Roundup when a black female student claimed another student's actions against her may have been racially motivated. A few weeks later on April 24, a student wearing blackface came to a Black Student Alliance meeting. Blair said the town hall could prevent future problems.

"Sometimes issues arise related to campus climate because of misunderstandings or not understanding their culture or the perspective they're coming from," she said. "A town hall provides the opportunity to share your perspective and hear other people's perspectives."

Vincent said it would be essential to foster a more inclusive environment on campus even if those specific incidents didn't happen occasionally.

"We're the place where these issues can get rooted out, addressed, so when you go back to your communities you can go and serve to make sure that these issues of bias and exclusion are minimized and eventually eradicated," he said.

Government senior Andrea Buckley said she hopes Vincent can host a larger forum with Student Government. Vincent said he would be open to doing so.

“Even though the students might change, the energy and the mission remains the same.”
— Gregory Vincent, vice president of UT's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

"We talk about, for example, what if the entire first-year class had a book that exposed them to these ideas?" he said.

Spokeswoman for the committee Leslie Blair said students at the Multicultural Engagement Center became interested in organizing a town hall after an incident at

"A lot of people may not have known about this event," she said. "I think issues get addressed on campus when SG is behind it, and I think it is a good idea to not just have one group or one office on campus looking at an issue, but getting several groups together."

By Jake Hong
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published March 4

Students and staff showed off their green expertise at the second annual Sustainability Fair on Thursday.

About 12 organizations, including the Department of Housing and Food Service, showcased different programs to demonstrate how UT is moving forward with environmental initiatives.

DHFS presented its commitment to environmentally friendly cleaning, which includes the use of Green Seal certification cleaning chemicals and microfiber mops and rags, which are more absorbent.

The greener cleaning practices have reduced water use by 80 percent

and required less frequent mop and rag replacement, said DHFS environmental specialist Meagan Jones said.

DHFS also presented its new sustainable food program, which has provided organic food for the Kin-solving Dining Center on Saturday nights since June 2010. The department also maintains three organic food plots at the UT Community Garden, and representatives said they hope to begin an organic food plot at Jester Center.

"We're just excited about getting the program started," said Scott Meyer, DHFS associate director. "Part of our mission is to educate the students about the project, and that's what we're excited about."

While DHFS described its contribution to student living, the Office

of Environmental Health and Safety presented its plan to promote responsible laboratory maintenance.

They are promoting safer chemical disposal through a program called Green Laboratory Practices, said Carin Peterson, office training and outreach coordinator. The program is trying to get 30 campus labs involved by May 6, she said.

"We're trying to reduce our hazardous chemical waste stream," Peterson said. "The labs involved are helping us out. It is our main initiative at the moment."

Students groups, such as the Engineers for a Sustainable World, put their own spin on sustainability at the fair. The organization showcased its recycling initiatives and a program that would allow the University

to reuse rainwater, such as watering the UT Community Garden.

While UT already has a recycling program, the campus is not recycling enough glass, said Daniel Huang, a chemical engineering freshman who represents the group in the Student Engineering Council.

"You see paper, you see plastic, you see compost, but you don't see glass," Huang said.

Electrical engineering sophomore Richard Edwards, the council's vice president of membership, said sustainability is an important facet of all academic disciplines.

"Sustainability is not just an engineering thing but a universal thing," Edwards said. "Sustainability would be encompassed in all majors because it applies to everybody."

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Safety forums, UT event raise awareness for Bike Month

By William James
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published May 4

Austin drivers could see some relief from usually hectic traffic throughout May as citizens participate in National Bike Month. To kick off the month, UT Parking and Transportation Services is hosting Bike to UT Day today, where breakfast will be available at five guard kiosks to encourage participants. To ensure a smooth month, the Center for Sustainable Development held a forum about bicycling on campus Tuesday afternoon, where six panelists discussed how education, safety and infrastructure improvements can make bicycling on campus a better experience for everyone. An audience of 30 spoke about problems bicycle riders face when riding on campus. Alan Bush, a graduate student in community and regional planning, said three separate groups have to work together to make UT's transportation systems run smoothly: bicyclists, pedestrians and automobile drivers. "A solution can be found [to ease transit problems]," he said. "If we create a study to find out how much of the problem deals with lack of drivers' education or a poor infrastructure, then we can focus on those issues and see if new laws should be made for bikers."

Many of the panelists, including Eileen Schaubert, a Mellow Johnny's community outreach coordinator, said UT should offer cycling education during freshman orientation to familiarize students with accessible routes and following the road rules on campus. "The UT administration does not take cycling seriously enough because it is not fixed in the campus's infrastructure," Schaubert said. Tom Wald, executive director of the League of Bicycling Voters, said the University needs to focus more attention on bicyclists to ensure their safety by increasing cycling education. "Bicycling is not considered a very accepted, core part of how the administration considers students getting to school," Wald said. "Between students and the University, millions of dollars could be saved if people rode their bikes instead of driving." Some universities around the country, including the University of California, Irvine, started using bike-sharing systems, a program similar to car2go, to decrease automobile transportation. City Council member Chris Riley said the city is likely to get a bike-sharing system within the next couple of years, which would take more cars off the streets. Desiree French, a panelist and Orange Bike Project coordinator,

said once the city gets the bike-sharing system, UT might also consider such a system. French said students should write a proposal to the UT Green Fund committee to start a bike-sharing program. The Green Fund allots money to members of the University for environmental and sustainability projects.

BIKES ON CAMPUS

Bringing your bicycle with you this fall? There are a few things you should know about having your bike on campus:

- **Registering it:** UT's Parking and Transportation Services department now requires that everyone with bikes on campus register them. So, put that on your to-do list.
- **The Orange Bike Project:** A product of the Campus Environmental Center, the program has access to used bikes, tools and also provides a space to work on bikes. Students can even "check out" bicycles for the semester.
- **The Kickstand:** Located on Speedway Plaza, this is the University's new bike hub, your one-stop shop for helmets, locks and other bicycle gear.

For more information about biking to, from and on campus, visit utexas.edu/parking/transportation/biking/.



A cyclist zooms past a stop sign while riding his bike through campus. The University held a forum Tuesday afternoon to discuss how to make the campus a safer place for cyclists, including ideas for bike-sharing and outreach programs.

Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

Colleges plan launch of video game design courses for spring 2013

By Allistair Pinsof
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 29

Austin, known as one of the primary hubs of the video game industry, may soon find the next generation of game artists, designers and programmers studying within the walls of UT this fall. Bruce Porter, chair of the computer science department, sent an email to computer science students this week announcing a new game design curriculum at

UT. The game development program is a collaborative effort between the College of Natural Sciences, the College of Fine Arts and the College of Communication, each of which will be offering their own courses in game design. In spring 2013, UT will offer its first Game Development Capstone Project class, which will gather students from each of the three schools in a team effort to create their own video games. Although colleges have offered game development classes in the past, Porter said the goal of the game development program is to offer

those classes consistently and introduce new classes, all in an effort to prepare students for the Capstone Project class, which will be taught by guest lecturers from local game developers. "I expect that more students will go into the industry as we develop this program," Porter said. "And as more industry moves to Austin, those two will feed into each other." The project has been developed during the past 18 months with help from the program's advisory board, which includes staff members of local industry developers such as Zynga ("Farmville") and Ricochet Labs ("Qrunk"), he said. The College of Communication's radio-television-film program has offered 3-D animation and digital media classes in the past, but associate RTF professor Andrew Shea said he hopes to see a broader focus on game design this fall. "We started over the last couple years to offer a series of classes in digital arts, and this seems the logical step to take, given the interest in the industry and

our student body," Shea said. The Electronic Game Developers Society, a UT student organization that designs games collectively, was surprised by the announcement of the new program. "We heard for a long time that UT wasn't having it," said EGaDs president Andrew Pish. "Even [UT alumnus and influential game designer] Richard Garriott pitched to Bill Powers, but he never did anything. So it's kind of surprising and out of the blue, but at the same time it's great to have academic opportunities." Pish said that the hardest thing of being a member of the group is finding the time between classes and homework to design games. The prospect of being able to combine his school work with his passion, game design, has him interested in the new program, he said. "I think a lot of the spirit of this is about collaboration with natural sciences and fine arts," Shea said. "It's about bringing together the different units on campus, which is a big part of the current entertainment world. It's a big part of social media and people's lives today. It's something that our Texas students are interested in."

UT partners with Mexican law school

By Shamoyita DasGupta
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published March 9

UT law students can earn a dual law degree from the UT School of Law and from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México in Mexico City through a new program currently accepting applications. Law school Dean Lawrence Sager and Jorge Cerdio, dean of the Department of Law at the Institute,

spent several years developing the program, which aims to increase the number of lawyers who are able to practice in both countries. "In a globalized world, there are more and more legal transactions and interactions," said UT Law Professor Ariel Dulitzky. "Establishing these types of programs is an idea to prepare first-rate lawyers, both in Mexican law and U.S. law." The deans also decided to create the program as a way to strengthen ties between Texas and Mexico.

"We don't only share the border, but we share a common heritage, history, traditions," Dulitzky said. "There are a lot of economic interactions between Texas and Mexico, and many Texan law firms have partners or offices in Mexico, so it was very easy for us to make that connection." The program will allow participating students to earn their Juris Doctor degree from UT and the Mexican equivalent, a Licenciatura en Derecho, from the Institute. Once students receive both degrees, they will be eligible to sit for the bar exam in the U.S. and apply for a license to practice law in Mexico. It is the first program that links a top-tier U.S. law school to one in a Latin American country.

"I really think it's a terrific opportunity for students in the program, as well as for citizens in the country, because we'll be able to achieve greater levels of collaboration," said Assistant Law School Dean Kirston Fortune. Students can apply for the program now, and each school will begin offering coursework for students from the other in fall 2012. Students who begin at UT must complete two years at UT and four semesters at the Institute, while students who begin at the Institute must complete four years at the Institute and two years at UT. Second-year law student Aparna Talluri said although she will not apply to the program, it is a great opportunity for students to learn more about other cultures and thereby further improve their knowledge of the law. "Because business is crossing national borders, our legal system has to, as well," she said "If you're dealing with policies abroad, you need to be well aware of their policies and law[s] in order to be the best lawyer you can be for your client."

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Shannon Kintner | Daily Texan Staff

The state Capitol Building sits in downtown Austin. With more than 50,000 students at UT, the city is home to hundreds of thousands of young people. It's also named the "Live Music Capital of the World."

Census data reveal increased diversity, young people in Texas Capitol

By Donovan Sanders
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published April 15

Austin is growing more diverse, and more students are migrating to the University area, said a city demographer.

Ryan Robinson, a city demographer, analyzed the 2010 census figures and presented his findings to a group of about 60 people on campus Thursday.

Austin's total population is now more than 790,000, according to the census. Austin is the 14th-largest city in the country, one spot up from where it ranked in

2000.

International immigration played a major part in the city's population boom. The city's white population is aging and remaining stagnant, while the Hispanic population is surging. Fifty-seven percent of the city's population is now Hispanic, and one in two children born in Austin is Hispanic.

"Even when jobs were falling, international immigration continued to grow," Robinson said. "Job creation, quality of life relative to competing cities and an extreme sense of [home] are some other things that might have sparked a

population growth."

Robinson said he also found an increase in people living around the University because students moved from the East Riverside area to the West Campus area.

"If UT wasn't doing as well as it was today, the population in West Campus wouldn't be as prominent as it is today," Robinson said.

The black population in the main parts of the city went down. Robinson said he noticed an increase in the black population in Austin suburbs, which may suggest that an increased number of black residents are moving from the city to surrounding areas.

The census also showed how different racial groups inhabited different parts of Austin and which parts were the wealthiest. Slowly, East Austin is losing its previously black majority, while West Austin remains predominantly white, and North Austin is seeing a more concentrated group of Hispanics.

"I find this information very enlightening with regard to how the city is becoming more divided and look forward to seeing how the city will respond to the results," said Drew Blair, a retired economics professor from St. Edwards University.

New Student Activity Center opens doors

By Ahsika Sanders
Daily Texan Staff
Originally published Jan. 18

The product of years of planning will debut today with the opening of the Student Activity Center.

The \$68 million building features a black box theater, auditorium, study lounges, meeting rooms, dance halls and new food options, including a Taco Cabana and Zen.

Former Student Government Vice President Marcus Cisneros, who was in office in 2006-07 when students passed a referendum to add the \$65-per-semester tuition increase that will pay for the center, said it was important that the center reflect what students wanted.

"We asked 'What do you want, what do you like, and what do you need?' And we tried to put that together to make the best building possible," said Cisneros, who was on the planning committee.

The students involved in the planning process worked with the Campus Environmental Center and the Students with Disabilities Agency to make sure the building was both environmentally sound and easily accessible to all students.

"We worked with students with disabilities to make sure that every space was accessible by wheelchair and accommodating to students with different needs," Cisneros said. "We also wanted our building to have elements of sustainability and efficient energy usage."

The center is held to high environmental standards with flower gardens and the cisterns to collect water and reduce the building's wasted resources. The University is seeking a silver LEED certification for the building, which would indicate high levels of efficiency and sustainability, said UT sustainability director Jim Walker.

Cisneros said perhaps the most important element of the center was making it activity-driven with expanded facilities.

"Students who didn't have a space to conduct certain dance practices, for example, now have a space to do that," he said.

SAC director Crystal King said she hopes students embrace the center as a special place and make it their own.

Student Government President Scott Parks said the center's many new features and convenient location will soon make it a new high traffic area. SG offices are moving from the Student Services Building to the SAC this month.

"I think that the Student Activity Center will be a really nice compliment to the Union that we already have," he said. "It will be a more vibrant, flexible space for all different kinds of student groups to meet and hang out."

In addition to SG, the center is now home to the Office of the Dean of Students, the Multicultural Information Center and the Gender and Sexuality Center, among other organizations' offices.



UT President William Powers Jr. and other Longhorns cut the ribbon outside the Student Activity Center for its grand opening in February.

Jono Foley
Daily Texan Staff

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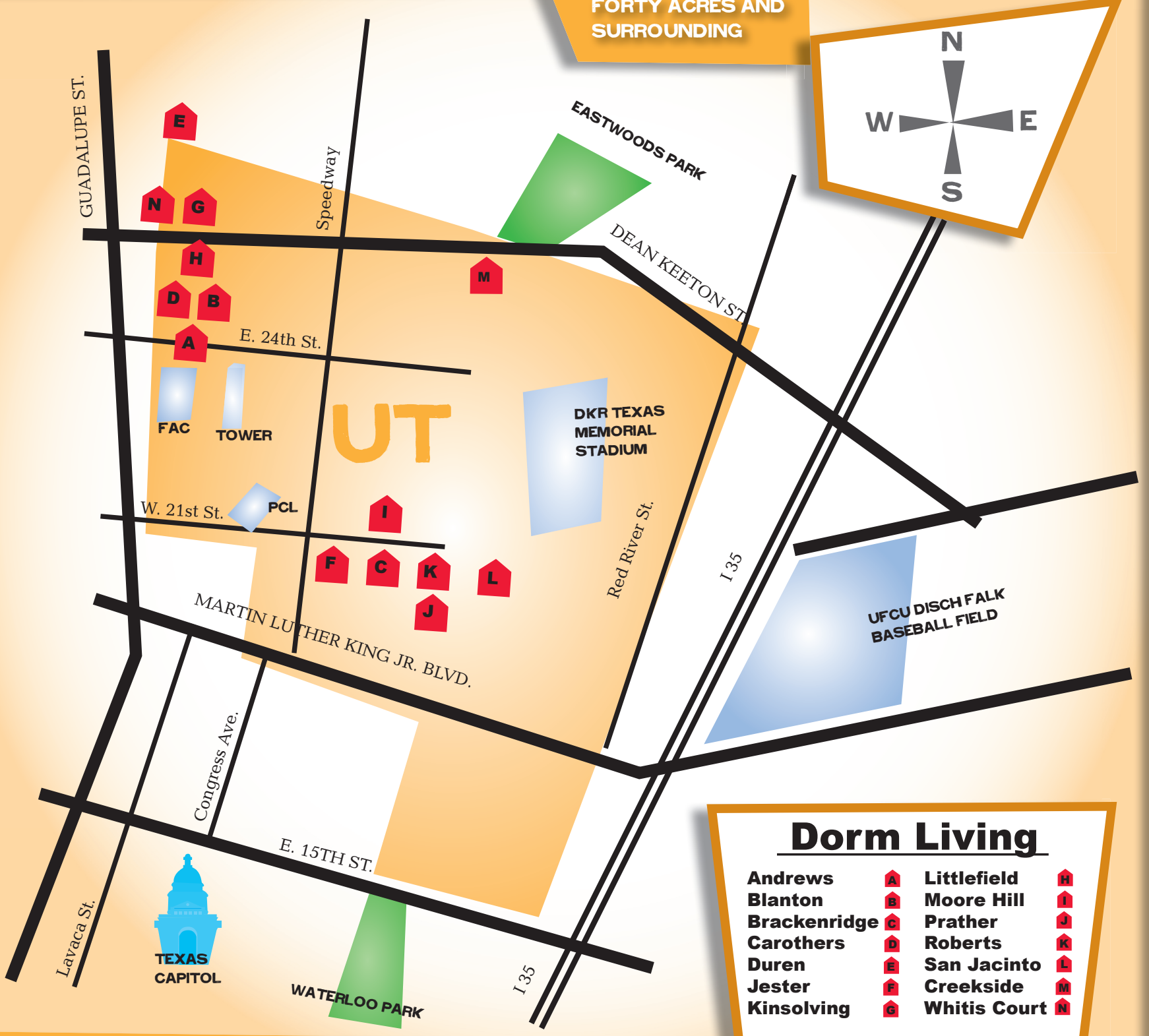


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Allen Otto | Daily Texan Staff

A student takes advantage of the free climbing wall in Gregory Gymnasium as a part of RecSports' celebration of Love Your Body Week. Gregory offered free classes and events for National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day.

RecSports celebrates 'fitness week' with free events, programs

Gregory Gym and the recreational sports center offered free classes Wednesday to celebrate National Recreational Sports & Fitness Day.

Sarah Jordan, who oversees group exercise programs at Gregory Gym, said the day's events were part of Love Your Body Week.

"RecSports partners with UT Health Ser-

vices this week to promote positive body image and fun fitness," Jordan said.

In addition to free TeXercise and cycling classes all day long, there were 15-minute class demonstrations ranging from Zumba dance to fencing.

The gym also offered free rock climbing, which staff members said had a great turnout. Corporate communications senior

Alex Rios came to the rock wall as part of the national fitness day.

"I've never climbed before, and I saw a sign that said there was free climbing from 2 to 5 p.m. for national fitness day so I wanted to check it out, try it," he said.

— Erika Rich

Originally published Feb. 24



Ryan Propes | Daily Texan Staff



Daily Texan file photo



Andrew Torrey | Daily Texan Staff

Top, A UT community member reads in the pool at the Aquatic Complex at Gregory Gym, which is free to use with a UT ID. Above, A curator explains a new exhibit, "Line," this spring at the Blanton Museum of Art. The Blanton is one of four on-campus museums free to students, faculty and staff. Left, The Forty Acres UT shuttle buses take riders around the perimeter of campus for free with an ID. ID holders can also ride city buses for free.

STUDENT PERKS

- **GREGORY GYM:** In addition to the weight and cardio areas in the gym, Gregory boasts exercise classes, a rock climbing wall, racquetball and basketball courts, an indoor track, locker rooms and more. The gym also features a state-of-the-art outdoor aquatic center with pools and a hot tub.
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Creme de la Couture

By William James & Julie Rene Tran
Daily Texan Staff | Originally published April 22

In an industry where designs are predominately geared towards women, two senior designers broke the mold with outstanding menswear collections at the 2011 textiles and apparel senior fashion show, “Innovation,” on Thursday night at the Frank Erwin Center. Despite having no formal training in menswear from College of Natural Sciences, designers Colton Gerard and Christopher Pham swept the awards with their well-made and sophisticatedly styled collections.

A packed Erwin Center watched and applauded as 23 textiles and apparel senior fashion designers debuted more than 100 looks. Following the runway show, superlative awards were distributed to deserving students by panelists which included fashion designers, writers, boutique owners and experts alike.

The Best Collection award went to Gerard. The collection, titled “Heritage,” was well received by the audience, especially by Stephen MacMillian Moser, fashion icon and Austin Chronicle columnist, who gave Gerard a standing ovation. His looks featured rugged, detailed jackets which incorporated many natural elements including rabbit fur, distressed leather and toggles made from deer antlers.

Honorable mention for Best Collection was awarded to Pham. Though his all-American adaptation of aristocratic blue bloods was not as original, Pham’s sophistication and taste shone through the garments. The pieces also resonate with the personality of Ralph Lauren, for whom Pham interned last summer.

Among other sponsors, the University Co-op sponsored the event and is selling three designers’ garments in their store. Pham, Elise Romero and Megan Mehl won the Most Marketable and Creative award, and their dresses will be sold in the Co-op starting today. Awards were also presented to Sophia Al-Banna, Angela Saenz, Kalgari Ferris and Heidi Mashaka for being the most creative.

Other standouts of the evening included an impeccably constructed line of monochromatic silks and androgynous lines from Jessica Bird and three adaptations of delicate white pieces by Al-Banna.

By far one of the best garments that



A model posed in one of designer Colton Gerard’s contemporary adaptations of military uniforms. Gerard’s collection, “Heritage,” won Best Collection at this year’s textile and apparel fashion show.

walked the runway was Bird’s leather creme jacket, which surpasses the workmanship of a fashion student. Her line looked and felt expensive; it was as if her garments were pulled off Bergdorf Goodman. The delicate piping down the shoulders and arms contrasted against the masculinity of the jacket’s structure, proving Bird’s wide range in aesthetic and construction. While Bird lured the crowd in with her dynamic mixed construction of fitted and flowy, the movement in Al-Banna’s pieces had pizzazz. Bird’s collection won Most Marketable, and Al-Banna took Honorable Mention for Best Bridal Wear.

Each designer also showcased formal and bridal attire, and Bird was awarded Best Evening Gown for her modern champagne-colored silk gown which featured golden piping that wrapped around the hips and extended to the floor.

One of the panelists and owner of Blackmail Boutique, Gail Chovan, said that she was impressed with how far the show had come since she originally started judging it 10 years ago.

“It is great to see guys that are designing for guys that use fashion-forward thinking and have strong technical skills,” Chovan said.

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